(a) whether there are 89 major and 116 medium irrigation ongoing projects in the Eleventh Plan, which could not be completed as per schedule, major projects being of 1992 vintage;

(b) whether total ultimate irrigation potential of these projects is 12.30 mha. of which potential of 5.792 mha. is likely to have been created by end of Tenth Plan, the balance potential of 6.508 mha. is yet to be created;

(c) the total loss to the nation, as 'cost escalation', due to delay; and

(d) whether above scenario is matter of serious concern?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) and (b) Normal period for completion of irrigation projects are taken as 15 to 20 years for Major projects and 5 to 10 years for medium projects. Accordingly, the major projects started during or before 1992 and medium projects started during or before VIII Plan which have been continuing as ongoing projects in XI Plan, may be considered as delayed projects. As per the assessment of the Report of the Working Group on Water Resources for XI Plan, there are 89 major and 116 medium ongoing projects in the XI Plan. These projects are having 12.30 mha of ultimate irrigation potential out of which 5.792 mha (anticipated) have been created till and of X Plan, leaving 6.508 mha of balance irrigation potential to be developed. Total Latest Estimated Cost of these projects is Rs. 1,45,746.50 Crore out of which Rs. 84,185.89 crore is anticipated to have been incurred till end of X Five Year Plan.

However, the Working Group on Water Resources for XI Five Year Plan had also anticipated that 48 Major and 91 Medium projects would be completed during X Plan, out of which, some of the projects could not be completed, adding 11 Major and 40 Medium delayed projects to the above and thus totaling to 100 Major projects started during or before 1992 and 156 Medium projects started during or before VIII Plan which are ongoing.

(c) and (d) Irrigation is a State subject and planning, execution, funding and priority of execution of irrigation projects is within the purview of the concerned State Governments. The projects are usually delayed due to resettlement and rehabilitation issues and shortage of funds with State Government which results in thin spreading of the resources. Concerned with the large number of ongoing projects, the Union Government launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97 in order to provide financial assistance to State Governments for expeditious completion of ongoing projects. So far, Union Government has provided central assistance amounting to Rs. 36533.5132 crore to various State Governments. Since launch of the AIBP, 103 major/medium projects/protect components are reported to have been completed so far.

Fifth Asian Regional Conference

3639. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian national committee on Irrigation and Drainage has decided to host 60th International Executive Council and International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage together with its Fifth Asian Regional Conference in 2009;

(b) whether theme of conference is improvement in effiency of irrigation projects through technology upgradation and better operation and maintenance; and

(c) if so, how many countries are there and the main subjects discussed in the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) to (c) The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) is organizing Fifth Asian Regional Conference (ARC) and 60th International Executive Council (IEC) meeting at New Delhi during December 6-11, 2009 jointly with Ministry of Water Resources. The Theme of the ARC is "Improvement in Efficiency of Irrigation Projects through Technology Upgradation and Better Operating and Maintenance". The Sub-theme for the Conference are (a) Modernization of Public/State Operated Irrigation System and Services (b) Public-Private Partnership in Irrigation Development and Management (c) Integrated Approach in Agricultural drainage (d) Capacity Development for Modern Irrigation Management (e) Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources Availability and Crop Productivity (f) Legal Aspect in Sharing of Water Resources. A special session on ground water recharge has also been planned on the concluding day. ICID has informed that it expects participation of delegates from about 60 countries.

Command Area Development Programme

3640. SHRI R. C. SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to implement Command Area Development Programme (CADP) as State Sector Scheme;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) the number of projects under CADP undertaken from the West Bengal in the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) the progress of above programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme has been approved as a State Sector Scheme for four years of XI Five Year Plan (2008-09 to 2011-12) with an outlay of Rs. 1600 crore.

(c) Four projects namely (i) DVC System, Burdwan, (ii) Kangasbati, Bankura, (iii) Mayurakshi, Suri-Bribhum and (iv) Teesta Project, Siliguri have been continuing as on-going under the CADWM Programme in the State of West Bengal for the last five years *i.e.* 2004-05 to 2008-09.